**Construction of Reservoir Beyond Mettur Dam in Tamil Nadu**

1080. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state whether Government have any proposal to construct reservoir beyond Mettur Dam on Cauvery River in Tamil Nadu and to store flood water during season and use it when required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): No, Sir. There is no proposal to construct reservoir beyond Mettur Dam on Cauvery River in Tamil Nadu to store flood water.

**Fall in Ground Water Level**

1081. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the contents of the news item captioned "Groundwater levels hit an alarming low" which appeared in Hindustan Times dated the 13th June, 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that the agriculturally important States of Punjab, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan are facing a steady fall in their ground water levels and the exploitation level in these four States is as much critical as it is minimum 53 per cent in Rajasthan and maximum 98 per cent in Punjab; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking for redemption of ground water specially when the agriculture contributes nearly 29 per cent of the GDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has seen the news-item, which appeared in a section of the press under the caption "Ground Water levels hit an alarming low".

(b) Level of ground water has declined in the States of Punjab,

Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan is 93.85%, 83.88%, 60.44% and 50.63% respectively.

(c) Water being a State subject, steps to augment ground water resources is to be taken by the concerned State Government. The steps taken by the Union Government to increase ground water level in the country include:—

(i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(ii) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories, to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(iii) Circulation of Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iv) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies in artificial recharge of ground water in some 'Over-exploited' and 'Dark' blocks of the country.

**Clearance to Vamshadhara Stage-II Project in Andhra Pradesh**

1082. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vamshadhara Stage-II proposal of Andhra Pradesh has been cleared by the Central Water Commission;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) the target for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):(a) to (c) The reference is presumably to Vamshadhara Project, Phase-I of